



In this time of unprecedented crisis for our community, TOHU stands firm in its support for contemporary circus. The MICC team is busy conceptualizing a pivot of the MICC market towards an ongoing online program designed to continue the MICC's work to develop, sustain, and invigorate artistic creation and touring for contemporary circus. The Digital MICC will offer iterations of the core components of the in-person MICC - networking, virtual artist pitches, small-group meetings, panels and relevant workshops.

TOHU is therefore seeking proposals for its online *Tour de piste* activities.

We hope this endeavor will offer an important lifeline to all of us for dialogue, solidarity, and future planning.

////////////////////// **CALL FOR PROPOSALS** ////////////////////////

**Artists, producers, & agents working in the field of contemporary circus are invited to submit proposals for our virtual *TOUR DE PISTE* activities.**

The first sessions will be held from July 6 to 9, 2020. We will hold monthly sessions from that point forward.

Projects will now be accepted on a rolling basis, with a monthly selection process. **However, to be considered for the first July sessions, submit your project by June 14, 2020.**

**WHAT IS A VIRTUAL "TOUR DE PISTE"?**

The virtual *Tour de Piste* events will be online sessions in which contemporary circus artists and companies are invited to **pitch their shows and/or concepts** to an audience of venue and festival programmers. This opportunity was created to continue to connect circus companies and presenters in the absence of an in-person marketplace, but we hope it can take on a character of its own.

**Artists:** In 5 to 10 minutes, use slides, video, costumes/characters, and/or your signature presentational style to make an impression and share your work or concept – remotely – with *Tour de Piste* attendees.

Each session will display 5 to 7 presentations and will last about an hour.

To reflect our current realities, the Virtual 'Tour de Piste' will accept pitches of the following types:

- Tour-ready full-length contemporary circus productions (highest priority)
  - It is understood that a series of circumstances/steps will be necessary to return a work to touring condition after the current hiatus. Please share these with us in your proposal.
- Full-length contemporary circus productions which are currently in a creation phase
  - Please feel free to articulate what you are seeking in terms of creation support – residency time, etc.
- Full-length contemporary circus productions which are currently in a concept phase
  - Please feel free to articulate what you are seeking in terms of creation support – residency time, etc.
- Your artistic response to the current circumstances
  - Out-of-the box thinking is vital right now. Foster presenter-artist collaboration by pitching a new concept.
- Your proposed circus-based public/community engagement/outreach strategy/activity.
  - Presenters may be able to program artists for engagement projects earlier than full-length shows.

## CONDITIONS

- This opportunity is open to professional circus companies with a touring history. Individual artists will be considered if they regularly tour full-length circus works.
- Submitting and presenting a project is free. There is no fee to participate.
- At least one artist, preferably accompanied by an agent/producer, must present the project. Please indicate in your application who will be giving the pitch presentation (speakers can participate from multiple geographic locations).
- The presenters can pitch in French or English. Simultaneous interpretation will be offered to attendees.
- Canadian companies must be members of the En Piste network to participate. If you are not yet an En Piste member at the time of application, you must join as part of your acceptance of this pitching opportunity.
- TOHU is pleased to offer selected artists feedback on their pitches by appointment pending staff availability.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

*Tour de Piste* pitches will be selected by a selection committee based on the following:

- **Artistic quality:** Quality of the proposal, artist/company history.
- **Feasibility/Tour potential:** Demonstration of ability to tour (using past touring history and/or other indicators); and/or ability to adapt to different venues, spaces, and/or circumstances.
- **Originality:** A production that makes an original contribution in contemporary circus and the performing arts, and/or one that demonstrates the continued relevance of contemporary circus in these changing times.

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PITCH PROPOSAL

Apply to pitch at the *Tour de Piste* events by clicking [HERE](#).

In addition to providing basic information about your project, you will need to submit the following documents:

### **Mandatory**

- Show/concept dossier (description in 250 words, company history, creator biographies, etc.).

### **If available**

- Complete list of artists and credits of the creative team
- Press release of the show and / or the company (articles and reviews) - maximum 10 pages
- Video recording full version show, web version (Vimeo or Youtube link, otherwise we- transfer via email)
- Trailer video
- Photos
- Tour schedule (past and future, if applicable; can include COVID-related cancellations and future unconfirmed potential engagements)
- Copy of your membership En Piste (Canadian companies only)

The MICC programming committee will review submissions. Selected applicants for the next session will be notified at least five (5) business days before their presentation date. Projects not selected for the first sessions will be considered for the following sessions.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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<https://montrealcompletementcirque.com/en/professionals/activities/tour-de-piste/>